

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1 and 21-23. Please also amend claims 2-4, 7-9, 11-17, and 19 as indicated in the complete list of claims that is presented below.

Cancel claim 1.

2. (currently amended) The laundry system according to claim 1, 4, wherein the laundry equipment includes a store controller (DTC) connected to the plurality of laundry machines by communication means, and the store controller has another communication means for communicating <sup>with</sup> the laundry managing server.

3. (currently amended) The laundry system according to claim 1, 4, wherein the means for creating bill data memorize a billing amount based on the operational information of the customer for a prescribed period, and create bill data based on aggregation of the billing amount for the prescribed period.

4. (currently amended) ~~The A laundry system according to claim 1, further comprising a carrier server capable of communicating with the laundry managing server, comprising laundry equipment which comprises a plurality of laundry machines, a laundry managing server for managing the laundry equipment, and a carrier server capable of communicating with the laundry managing server wherein:~~

the laundry equipment comes into an operable state by receiving a signal for permitting operation thereof from the laundry managing server, and transmits operational

the laundry managing server identifies the laundry equipment to be used by the customer based on the positional information of the portable communication tool transmitted from the portable communication tool owned by the customer.

14. (currently amended) ~~The A laundry system according to claim 11, wherein:~~  
comprising laundry equipment which comprises a plurality of laundry machines, and a laundry managing server for managing the laundry equipment, wherein:

the laundry equipment comes into an operable state by receiving a signal for permitting operation thereof from the laundry managing server, and transmits operational information to the laundry managing server in response to operation of the laundry equipment which has become operable;

the laundry managing server comprises means for confirming validity of customer identification data when receiving the customer identification data along with specific information for identifying laundry equipment that the customer desires to use from a portable communication tool of the customer and transmitting a signal to the laundry equipment that has been identified by the specific information so as to permit operation of the laundry equipment, and means for receiving the operational information from the laundry equipment and creating bill data for charging the customer based on the customer identification data and the operational information;

the laundry equipment is capable of communicating with the portable communication tool of the customer by a low-power, short-range first radio communication means, while the portable communication tool of the customer is capable of transmitting data concerning the communication with the laundry equipment to the

laundry managing server by a second radio communication means other than the first  
radio communication means;

the laundry machine has identification for identifying itself;

the laundry machine further comprises:

the first specified low-power, short-range ~~radiocommunication~~  
~~radiocommunication~~ radio communication means;

first judgment means for judging whether the machine is operable  
or not when the first ~~radiocommunication~~ radio communication means  
receive identification information from a portable communication tool;

means for indicating an operable condition of the machine and  
transmitting a response by the first ~~radiocommunication~~ radio  
communication means permitting operation of the machine based on a  
judgment of the first judgment means determining that the machine is  
operable;

second judgment means for judging whether operational  
information permits operation of the machine or not when the first  
~~radiocommunication~~ radio communication means receives the operational  
information as a result of the transmission of the response permitting  
operation of the machine; and

means for starting operation of the machine based on a judgment  
of the second judgment means determining that the machine is operable,  
and transmitting the operational information from the first  
~~radiocommunication~~ radio communication means.

"Approved"  
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08 June  
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**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Please enter the replacement sheets for Figures 14, 28 and 44 that are attached to this Amendment.